

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01

SAJ-01 IO-10 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05 PC-01 A-01 PER-01 SSO-00

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NEA: MR. ATHERTON

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, US

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST

1. TEXT FOLLOWS(PARA 4 BELOW) OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY SECRETARY'S PARTY IN JERUSALEM MARCH 22 CONCERNING TERMINATION OF SECRETARY'S TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST.

2. DURING PERIOD OF POLICY REASSESSMENT WHICH WE ARE NOW IN, ALL PERSONNEL ARE ENJOINED TO AVOID SPECULATION ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION OR DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS IN U.S. POLICY RE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE GOING BEYOND STATEMENT BELOW. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO AVOID ANY COMMENTS WHICH COULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERPRETED AS PLACING BLAME ON ONE OR ANOTHER PARTY

FOR TERMINATION OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AREA.

3. IF QUESTIONS RE MIDDLE EAST COME UP IN COURSE OF YOUR REGULAR CONTACTS WITH HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS, YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT U.S. COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST IS UNDIMINISHED. U.S. IS ENGAGED IN CAREFUL REVIEW OF POSSIBLE MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH THAT OBJECTIVE AND URGES ALL THOSE WITH INTEREST IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE NOT TO PRECLUDE ANY FRUITFUL APPROACH THAT MAY BE DEVELOPED.

4. U.S. STATEMENT ON TERMINATION OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST. BEGIN TEXT: WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING, IN RESPONSE TO THE DESIRES OF THE PARTIES, TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE A FURTHER STEP TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT. WE BELIEVE BOTH SIDES HAVE MADE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO REACH A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. UNFORTUNATELY, THE DIFFERENCES ON A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES HAVE PROVEN IRRECONCILABLE. WE, THEREFORE, BELIEVE A PERIOD OF REASSESSMENT IS NEEDED SO THAT ALL CONCERNED CAN CONSIDER HOW BEST TO PROCEED TOWARD A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ACCORDINGLY INFORMED THE PARTIES THAT HE IS SUSPENDING HIS PRESENT EFFORTS AND RETURNING TO WASHINGTON TO REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS ON THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE WILL REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE PARTIES AND THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE DURING THE PERIOD AHEAD. END TEXT.

5. YOU SHOULD ALSO BE COGNIZANT OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ISSUED BY WHITE HOUSE MARCH 24. BEGIN TEXT: REPORT ON BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL MEETING ON MARCH 24, 1975. THE PRESIDENT BEGAN THE MEETING BY SAYING THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO ASSESS BLAME FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS. THE PRESIDENT THEN GAVE A SHORT HISTORY OF RECENT EFFORTS TO HELP ISRAEL AND EGYPT TO MAKE ANOTHER STEP TOWARD PEACE. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE WAS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE TALKS WERE SUSPENDED WITHOUT AGREEMENT.

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THE PRESIDENT SAID THE PARTIES INVOLVED NOW WILL ASSESS HOW TO PROCEED TOWARD PEACE. THE PRESIDENT PRAISED DR. KISSINGER FOR HIS SKILL AND PATIENCE, AND SAID THAT EVERYONE WAS GRATEFUL FOR HIS EFFORTS.

DR. KISSINGER CONCLUDED THAT THE U.S. WILL NOW CONSIDER HOW TO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF PEACE, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS AT GENEVA.

AT THIS POINT, THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOW RE-EXAMINE THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND WILL KEEP CONGRESS FULLY INFORMED ON THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION.

THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WHO SPOKE WERE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR PRAISE OF THE PRESIDENT AND DR. KISSINGER FOR THE LATEST EFFORT TO TAKE ANOTHER STEP TOWARD

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS PROMISED THEIR CONTINUED BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR MIDDLE EAST EFFORTS.

AT ONE POINT SPEAKER ALBERT SAID THAT ON BEHALF OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP HE WANTED TO TELL DR. KISSINGER QUOTE YOU HAVE OUTDONE YOURSELF TO BRING THIS THING TO A CONCLUSION. END QUOTE. EVERYONE PRESENT APPLAUDED.

THE PRESIDENT INFORMED THE LEADERS THAT, AS THE RESULT OF THE SITUATION IN WHICH WE NOW FIND OURSELVES, HE HAS ORDERED A REASSESSMENT OF THE UNITED STATES' POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST IN ALL ITS ASPECTS AND TOWARD ALL COUNTRIES OF THE AREA. HE TOLD THE LEADERS THAT HE WOULD STAY IN TOUCH WITH THEM AS THE POLICY REVIEW PROCEEDED. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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